

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02 TRSE-00

AGR-20 DRC-01 /135 W

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R 220707Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9410

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, PINR

SUBJECT: PRIMIN TANAKA POLICY SPEECH TO DIET

SUMMARY: IN JANUARY 21 POLICY SPEECH, PRIMIN TANAKA PROMISED RESOLUTE ACTION TO DEAL WITH RISING PRICES, OIL SHORTAGE AND OTHER ECONOMIC ILLS. HE ALSO STRESSED NEED TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF LDCS AND PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN RESOURCE-PRODUCING AND -CONSUMING NATIONS. SPEECH CONTAINED LITTLE THAT WAS NEW AND WILL NO DOUBT BE TARGET OF VIGOROUS OPPOSITION CRITICISM WHEN INTERPELLATIONS BEGIN ON JANUARY 23. END SUMMARY

1. IN HIS POLICY SPEECH TO DIET ON JANUARY 21, PRIMIN TANAKA SAID GOJ WOULD TAKE RESOLUTE ACTION TO SOLVE VARIETY OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, WITH HIGH PRICES, POLLUTION AND ENERGY SHORTAGES BEING MOST IMPORTANT. GOJ, HE SAID, WOULD RECTIFY PAST ERRORS AND DISPLAY WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT VIGOROUS POLICIES REFLECTING NEW IDEAS.

2. TANAKA SAID THAT RECENT PRICE INCREASES WERE RESULT OF REDUCED OIL SUPPLIES AND HIGHER

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IMPORT PRICES. HE POINTED OUT

THAT IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, GOJ HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO CHECK TOTAL DEMAND. MOREOVER, TO ENSURE FAIRNESS TO CONSUMERS AND PREVENT ECONOMIC CONFUSION, GOJ WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN STABILITY OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY AND FAIR PRICES OF DAILY NECESSITIES THROUGH ENFORCEMENT OF APPLICABLE LEGISLATION. HE URGED BUSINESSES TO REFRAIN FROM HOARDING AND PROFITEERING ON PRETEXT OF OIL SHORTAGE AND, AT SAME TIME, ASKED PUBLIC TO ACT WITH REASON. REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO OIL SHORTAGE, TANAKA SAID GOJ WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND, SIMULTANEOUSLY, WILL TRY TO BRING ABOUT INDUSTRIAL SHIFT FROM ENERGY CONSUMPTION TO ENERGY SAVING.

3. TANAKA SAID THAT HIS SERIES OF SUMMIT TALKS IN US, PRC, EUROPE, USSR AND SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD SOLIDIFIED FOUNDATION FOR JAPAN TO CONDUCT DIPLOMACY IN GLOBAL CONTEXT. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT QTE MUTUALLY RELIABLE UNQTE RELATIONS WITH US WAS BASIS FOR JAPAN'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES. WHILE TENSIONS IN ASIA WERE BEING REDUCED AS RESULT OF DETENTE, TANAKA ADDED, JAPAN WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN NECESSARY MINIMAL SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY AND MST WITH UNITED STATES.

4. BASED ON HIS RECENT EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, TANAKA SAID JAPAN MUST CHANGE AID POLICY TO MEET EXPECTATIONS OF PEOPLE IN THAT REGION AND PROMOTE PEACE AND PROSPERITY. GOJ WOULD, HE ANNOUNCED, EXTEND MORE AID IN SUCH FIELDS AS AGRICULTURE, MEDICINE, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, EASE TERMS OF GOVERNMENT CREDITS AND EXPAND SCOPE OF PROJECTS FOR AID GRANTS. TANAKA ALSO EXPLAINED THAT GOJ PLANNED TO APPOINT NEW CABINET MINISTER IN CHARGE OF OVERSEAS ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TO CREATE NEW AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS PART OF EFFORT TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF AID TO ASIAN NATIONS.

5. PRIMIN STRESSED MUTUAL INTERDEPENDENCE OF JAPAN AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES AND CONCOMITANT NEED FOR COOPERATION. HE ALSO PROMISED THAT GOJ WOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN OIL-PRODUCING AND -CONSUMING NATIONS AIMED AT FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CRISIS.

6. WHILE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING NATION WERE DIFFICULT, TANAKA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID, HE WAS CONFIDENT PEOPLE WHO HAD SURVIVED TRIAL OF IMMEDIATE POST-WAR YEARS WOULD SURMOUNT CURRENT CRISIS.

7. COMMENT: TANAKA DELIVERED 45-MINUTE SPEECH IN LABORED MANNER AND HIS VOICE WAS EXTREMELY HOARSE. WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ADMISSIION THAT FRESH APPROACHES TO SOLVING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE NEEDED, CONTENT OF SPEECH WAS OLD HAT. IT ELICITED LITTLE APPLAUSE FROM SUPPORTERS AND FEW JEERS FROM OPPONENTS - THEY HAD

HEARD IT ALL BEFORE. INITIAD EDITORIAL REACTION WAS GENERALLY
CRITICAL, STRESSING LACK OF SPECIFICS AND PRIMIN'S LACK OF QTE
SELF-REFLECTION UNQTE. OPPOSITION PARTIES WILLNO DOUBT DEMAND
THAT PRIMIN OFFER MORE CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHEN INTERPELLATIONS
BEGIN JANUARY 23.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINR, JA, (TANAKA, KAKUEI)
To: STATE
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